

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, 13, and 19, and add new claims 24-29, as shown in the attached claim sheets.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add in text (with some phrases omitted) from Col. 6, lines 40-45 of U.S. Patent No. 6,432,214 (copy enclosed), incorporated by reference at [0001].

Non-elected claims 1-8 have been cancelled without prejudice. Allowable claims 13 and 19 have been cancelled and generally rewritten into independent form as new claims 24 and 25. These claims describe a cleaning solution and have other differences from claims 13 and 19. New claims 26-28 have been added. New claim 26 is similar to claim 10 and describes a cleaning solution source. New claims 27-29 include additional wafer carrier cleaning elements, in view of the Examiner's comments at the last 5 lines of page 4 of the Office Action. Claims 9-12, 14-18, and 20-29 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections are requested in view of the following remarks.

Extremely low contamination levels are required for flat media carriers or boxes. Accordingly, cleaning flat media carriers or boxes to the necessary high levels of cleanliness can be difficult, time-consuming and costly (see application, paragraphs 0007-0008). Additionally, the detergents, surfactants, or other cleaning solutions used to clean carriers are typically expensive, e.g., \$40/gallon (see application, paragraph 0056). Thus, careful use of these types of cleaning solutions is advantageous, to maintain cleaning costs at a reasonable level.